

synonymous with opportunity, equality, freedom and hope.

On April 25, 1507, German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller and Vautran Ludd, Chaplain to the Duke of Lorraine, created a map that gave the name "America" to the new world discovered by Christopher Columbus 15 years earlier. According to historical accounts, the name was a tribute to Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine navigator who made 4 voyages to the new world between 1497 and 1504.

Waldseemüller and Ludd published 1,000 copies of the map that first coined the term "America," and I am proud to say that the only surviving copy—a priceless relic of our shared heritage—now resides in the Library of Congress, after being purchased in 2003 from the German Prince Waldburg-Wolfegg for \$10 million.

In the 500 years that have passed since the word "America" was first used, the term has become more of an idea than a name—a concept that celebrates what is best about humanity; a principle that defines what liberty, justice and unity are really all about; and a goal for the people of the world to strive towards.

We have come a long way over the last half-millennium—from a name on a piece of paper to a moral, political and economic leader among nations. And it gives me great pride to mark this momentous occasion on the House Floor and to join people all over the world in celebrating the fifth centenary of the word "America"—a notion that now means so much to so many people from all walks of life.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEMBER OF
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 328, expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a strong advocate for women and human rights, speaking out against injustice in our country and around the world. She was the first African American woman to chair a Committee in Congress, and will be remembered for her commitment and dedication to ensuring that every American's vote counts.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues in the 107th Congress, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD worked tirelessly to ensure that women from both sides of the aisle participated in the activities of the Caucus. She was a warm and open person, and was a true mentor to me during my first term in Congress.

On behalf of the families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, we extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to her husband, Mr. James McDonald, Jr., her children and all of her family and friends. Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be remembered and honored in the highest regard.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE RED CROSS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 90th Anniversary of the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Since President Woodrow Wilson signed its charter on May 17, 1917, the organization has trained thousands of volunteers that have responded to numerous disasters in Humboldt County, California.

The lives of the citizens of Humboldt County have been greatly improved by the presence and benevolence of this organization. Whether disaster struck a single family or the entire community, the Red Cross has provided disaster relief focused on meeting basic human needs of shelter, food, and health services.

In its 90-year history, the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross has responded to hundreds of disasters; playing a critical role after the earthquake, tsunami, and flooding of 1964, four earthquakes that struck during the early 1990s and the New Years Eve storm of 2006. They provided assistance and sent volunteers to help after the attacks of September 11, the Indonesian tsunami of 2004 and Hurricane Katrina.

Leaders of the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross have trained thousands of community volunteers in first-aid, health and safety services and disaster preparedness. They are committed to strengthening the ability of Humboldt County and its communities to prevent, respond and recover from unexpected emergencies and disasters and have led the local effort of a broader campaign of national preparedness.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the commitment, dedication and inspiration of the many individuals who make up the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross and extend our hearty congratulations on the celebration of its 90th anniversary.

INTRODUCING THE SAVE OUR
CLIMATE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a simple solution to the global warming problem, a carbon tax.

This past Sunday, we celebrated Earth Day. Today, in Earth Day's honor, I propose the Save Our Climate Act. The first Earth Day in 1970 led to new laws to improve air and water quality, and was an important impetus for the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. On Earth Day 2007, climate change is the preeminent environmental concern. I hope 2007 will be remembered as the year we ad-

ressed global warming by passing the Save Our Climate Act.

Climate change is a worldwide problem requiring each nation to do its part. The International Panel on Climate Change—600 of the world's leading scientists—suggests that temperatures may increase three to seven degrees Fahrenheit in the next century. Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" may have seemed like a scare tactic, but if we don't wake up to the realities presented in his documentary, we will soon wake up to flooded coastlines, unfarmable plains, and species extinction.

To date, the United States has failed to take necessary steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Though the U.S. emits approximately six billion metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) each year—comprising nearly 24 percent of the world's total emissions—we have failed to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. If we continue our refusal to act, we cannot expect other countries to do their part.

The vast majority of environmentalists and climate change experts agree that we need to reduce CO₂ emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050 in order to stop the current pace of climate change. Every year we delay enacting legislation to slow climate change makes it that much more difficult to stop global warming.

Economists widely agree that a carbon tax is the best way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and save our planet from catastrophic climate change. The Save Our Climate Act is just that, a simple tax on fossil fuels that will decrease emissions and create immediate incentives for green energy. Under this legislation, carbon based fuels—coal, petroleum and natural gas—will be taxed at a rate of \$10 per ton of carbon content. That means coal, which has higher carbon content than natural gas, will be taxed at a higher rate. This tax structure promotes the use of less carbon intensive fossil fuels and creates an incentive to use other non-carbon-based fuels.

The tax will increase by \$10 per ton of carbon every year, making it less affordable to burn fossil fuels as time goes on. When the U.S. reduces its CO₂ emissions by 80 percent, the tax will be frozen at that level. The Save Our Climate Act will generate a small energy price increase each year, equal to about 2 cents per gallon of gas annually. As the tax rate increases, fossil fuel prices will increase, producers will have an incentive to invest in cleaner alternative energies, and those alternative energy sources will become more competitive.

While economists agree that a carbon tax is the best way to reduce CO₂ emissions, few agree on what to do with the revenues raised from the tax. The Save Our Climate Act does not prescribe how we should spend carbon tax revenue, but recognizes the many competing interests for this revenue. Low and middle-income consumers who may face modestly higher energy prices under this system could receive some of the revenue in the form of reduced income taxes or increased tax deductions or credits. We could also spend the money on alternative energy sources, health care, education, or a myriad other domestic environmental and social priorities.

The Save Our Climate Act is a simple solution to a very difficult problem. Some have suggested a system of CO₂ emission caps and a market to buy and sell emissions credits, often referred to as "cap and trade." I